The Proclamation and Edict of the Archbyshop, and Prince Elector of CVLLEYN.

K. Cologne. Gebhardt, Archb.

Declarynge his occasion and earnest intention, to bring in the free exercise of the preaching of the Gospel, and peace and lybertie to true Christian Religion.

¶ Proclaymed at BONN, in the yeare of our Lorde, 1583.

¶ Imprinted at Antwerp, in Tanners straete, at the Signe of the Gylden Bible, by PAVLS BRAECKVELT, 1583.

With the consent and Priuiledge of the the Lordes of the Cittie of Antwerp.

¶ Imprinted at London, by Richard Iones and I.S. the. 18. of March. 1583.

¶ Authorised and allowed.

The Copie out of the high Dutche.

The Christian Edict & Proclamation, of the Archbishop and Prince Elector of Culleyn: concernyng his Princely intention to bring in the holy Gospell. Geuen at BON, the. xvi. of Ianuarie. 1583.

WE Gebhart by the grace of god elected, and accepted Archbyshop of Culleyn, Archychauncellour of the holye Empire through all Italie, and Elector: Duke of Westphalen and Ingrene. &c: do let and giue

to witte and vnderstande vnto all and singuler Archdeacons of our Jurisdiction, Countrey states, Earles, Knights, States and other persons, subiectes vnto vs: and to all others that shall haue occasion to vse our grace and fauour, and to euery of them, ioyntly and seuerallie. That since we receyued the state & place of our Archbishoprycke and Prince Electours Gouernment, wherin the Almighty God, by free and lawfull election hath placed vs, wee haue alwayes acknowledged and at this present doe acknowledge that we are bounde to doe our duety and endeuoure, to maintayne and defende all such as by God are commytted to our Princely Election and Archbyshoprycke, and lykewise our common natiue Countrey of

trey of the Dutch Nation: & most specially and aboue all other respectes to aduance & set before our eyes the honour of God before all other matters, whereunto with al diligence and hartie affection wee are inclined.

For asmuch as most earnest, obediēt & hartie petition & request hath been lately made vnto vs by our Nobilitie & knights, & other Prouinces & coūtreies in no smal nūber, & also by the letters of some great personages of high estate & calling, wiin the sacred & holy Empyre, to suffer, admit & allow vnto thē in al places of our Jurisdiction & auctoryte, the publike & opē exercise of ỳ preaching of ỳ holy Gospell, and vse & administration of the holy Sacraments, accordyng to the sacred worde and Scrip-

tures of God, and the Confession of Aulpurghe, grounded vppon the same holy Scriptures. And theruppon, considerynge the euerlastynge & vnchangeable wyll of God, that it is our duties to heare his Sonne, and earnestlye to do his wyll. And that all Princes and Gouernours of the worlde, ought too cause the Gates to bee sette wide open, for the kyng of Glory, and to let all people to enter in vnto him. Wherunto wee haue speciall Commaundement from God in our vocation, and do feele in our conscience, how greeuously in the day of Iudgment, we shall yeeld accompt and make answer before God for all our actions, and shuttyng vp the waye of saluation to our leage people. And acknowledgyng and confes-

syng our selues to bee bounde to feare God, from the bottom of our hartes, and obediently to follow his Commaundements, and that hee is a mightie and iuste Iudge, and consuming fire, whose feare wee oughte continuallie to set before our eyes. And for that wee being Christian superior, thought it our duetie before God, no longer to refuse to accomplishe the earneste and humble petition and suite, of our Nobilitie and Subiectes. Wee therefore by the aduise of our Lordes and frendes, and after mature consultation thereupon had and taken, doe graunte and permit vnto all persons, of what estate, degree, or callinge soeuer they bee; eyther subiecte vnto our Authority, or frends, and bearing good will to our Archbishoppzick,

the Christian lybertie of their con
sciences, by Gods woorde allowed.
And do wyll, consent, graunt and
confirme vnto them by vertue of
these presentes, that if any of the
Subiectes or Inhabitauntes of
any Cytie, Towne or place of our
Jurisdiction, shall by any of our
Officers, Commissioners, Magi-
strates or ministers, whatsoeuer,
in or about maters of faith, religiō
or conscience, be imprisoned, dam-
nified, molested or troubled either
in Honour, dignitie, Fame, Repu-
tation, bodie or goodds, for Gods
woorde, or following the confessi-
on of Auspurghe. That then eue-
rie of them shal bee freely cleared,
set at liberty, and discharged from
all imprisonment, losse, molestatiō
& trouble whatsoeuer, growinge
for anie such respect.

Also

Also wee doe license, graunte and confirme herewithall vnto our Prelates, Earles, Lordes, Inhabitantes, Estates, Commons, Townes, and other Congregations of people, of our princely Election and Archbyshoprycke, that they maye and shall, by warrante hereof, haue full power and Authoritie, to exercise and put in vre, the free and open Exercise of the preachynge of the Gospell, and the Administratyon and vse of the holye Sacramentes, accordynge to the holye Scryptures of the Prophetes and Apostles, and agreable to the Contentes and vse of the confession of Aurpurghe, therevppon grounded, without molestation of our Cõmissioners, Justyces and Officers, or anye other

eyther of our Jurisdiction, whome wee doe meane to defende & assist with the helpe of the Almightie God: trusting also vpō the mightie power of God, that he will mercifullie assist and fauour vs in our so godly an enterprise and meaning, and be our defence agaynst all the Gates of Hell, to the maintenance of his glorie and holie worde.

Moreouer, wee doe hereby declare and protest before the Almightie God, who is the chiefe truth, and a knower of the secrets of all mens heartes, that wee are not mooued and leded to this our christian intentiō, through worldly wisedome, desire of honour, or anie other wordly respect: neyther herein do seeke the profit, honour, dignitie, or estimation of our selfe, but

but onelye dos seeke to aduaunce the honeur and glorie of our Redeemer, and to set foorth his holye worde. And our intent and meaning herein, is chiefly to seeke the prosperitye and Saluation of our Subiectes, whome God hath committed to our charge.

Let no man therefore imagine or thinke, that wee are inclined to nouelties or troubles. For oure intente and desyre is, to see good Christian orders maynteined and keyte with peace and quyetnes, in Churches and Schooles of mens hearres.

And so wer are minded by the aduyse & counsayle of the States of our Countreys, and other our Lordes and frendes, to publishe a

set

set foorthe Christyan Orders to bee obserued and followed in all Churches and Schooles of oure Archbishoprieke.

In the meane tyme wee are aduysed, to geue warnynge to all suche as intende to lyue after the woorde of GOD, and the Confession of Auspurghe, to vse and behaue themselues with all reason and aduysement, as good Christians oughte to doe. And wee requyre and praye them moste hartilye, that no man molleste, trouble, defye, blaspheme or vexe one an other by woorde or deede. But that euerye of them behaue themselues one towards an other peaceablye and quyetlye in their conuersation and dealynges. And to lyue and continue accordynge to the con-

Contentes of this oure presente Edict.

And as touchynge oure owne Person in this case. Whereas accordynge to the Counsayle and appoyntmente of Almighty God, wee haue entered into the Holye State of Marryage, and that publiquelye, wherein no man is able iustlie to accuse vs to haue doone the same agaynste the accustomed Order, or that wee haue anye meanynge to serke oure priuate aduauntage, or anye other thynge preiudycyall to oure Archbyshoprycke, and Synnce Electorshyppe, or to appropryate the same in Succession and Inheritaunce to oure Heyres: Wee therefore, doe make open and

playne

plaine Testimonie and Declaration by these presents, by the highest trueth: (which is God Almightie himselfe) and hereby do protest that we haue no meaning or will, nor are in anie wyse inclyned or bent, to bringe our Byshoppricke, to the proprietie or possessyon of our Heyres, neyther to bringe in anie Noueltie or Alteration, tendynge to oure pryuate profytte or aduauncement. But doe hereby openlye publishe and declare, that after our Decease, our Honourable Chapyter of oure Cathedrall Churche of Culleyn, shall haue their free Libertye and Election lefte vnto them, and shall remaine in all respects, as in their auncient former estate.

Also we are content, and giue our

our Commaundement touchinge the premisses to all and singuler Inhabitantes and Subiectes of our Archbysshopryke and Prince Electorship: that an orderly choice and free election may be made of a future supreme head, to gouerne them after our decease or free resignation: yet neuertheless, our meanynge is, that, whosoeuer shall be in election to come to that succession by an orderly choice & free election, shall be no other but such a one as is bounde vnto our saide Chapiter of our saide Cathedrall Church, and a Lorde capable, by th'ordinaunces of the same to come to that degree, and a man of our iurisdiction, both obedient and fytte, and worthye in all respectes for the place when it shal fall vnto him: and otherwise,

not to bee elected to suche preferment by any meanes. And whatsoeuer, such person as shall be by suche orderly proceedinge, choice and free election of our worthye Chapiter of our said Cathedrall Church, chosen and elected to succeede after our sayd decease or resignation. They shall acknowledge him for their future Lorde, any Lawe, Statute, Act, Ordinaunce, Edict, or Proclamation, made, ordained, or prouided, either by vs, or any other whatsoeuer he be, to the contrary of this our publyke declaration, in any wise notwithstandyng: for we, all such do now, & alwayes wyl cancel, adnichilate and make of none effect.

All the same premisses, we wish to be done in the cheefest and best

manor

manner and forme that may bee, to thende the same may continue of the better force and effect: wherunto, we will be obedient and lay to our helping hande, and therein wyll agree and consent with our said Chapiter & inhabitants and confyrme the aforesaid conditions with assurance therof, in such sort that no man shall haue iust cause to mistrust or conceaue any feare of vs, or of our Heyres or Successours.

Wherefore, wee wyll and commaunde all our Baylyffes, Justices, Officers, Lieutennauntes, Gouernours, Customers, Burroughmaisters, Cytizens, Common people, Ministers and Subiectes and whatsoeuer, vpon this our publique Edict and Proclamation

mation, with all their endeuour, to obserue and performe the same: and to cause the same Edict and Proclamation to bee obeyed and maintayned from point to point:

And also contrarye to the true meanynge thereof, not to encomber or trouble, or suffer to bee encumbred or troubled, any person or persons of any degree, vocation, or calling whatsoeuer, vppon paine of our high displeasure and indignation, & grieuous punishment to be inflicted withall vpon the offenders, breakers or repugners of this our present Edict and Proclamation: for such is our earnest and finall intent and wyll.

In witnesse wherof, we haue caused this our Proclamation to be openly printed and confirmed with

with our Seale, and that through al our Archbishoprick and Prince Electorship, to thend, þ euery man should haue knowledge thereof.

Giuen in our Citie of BON, the. xvi. Day of Ianuarie, in the yeare of the Computation of the byrth of our Lorde Iesus Christ, 1583.

Printed at London by Richarde Iones: at the Signe of the Rose and the Crowne, neare Holburne Bridge.

19. MARCH, 1583.

A.